

## **May 18, 2015 CCA Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Michael Shermis, Vicki Pappas, Katie Herron, David Carter, Dr. Lisa Connolly, Kimberly Dailey Johnson, Chris Jackson, Jeanette Shere-Thomas, Nick Philbeck, Lisa Kane, Jim Comerford, Catherine Andes and Linda Crawford.

**Minutes and Financial Report:** March minutes were accepted as printed. Expenditures included payment for the bike event and an ADA committee lunch meeting; balance is \$5,416.31.

**Media:** David shared an article from the News of the Weird from the Herald-Times, which reported several incidents of ignoring the accessibility needs of attendees at an Australian annual National Disability Summit. Sue Ellen Jackson-Boner, Executive Director of the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, is retiring from her position.

**Guest Presentation:** Jim Comerford, Director, and Lisa Kane, Deputy Director, of the Emergency Management Agency provided information on the work done by their organization. In a PowerPoint presentation, they shared how the Emergency Management Agency plans to approach disaster, works to coordinate efforts between public and private groups, manages grants for salaries, county equipment, etc., provides education through Monroe County Citizen Academy and other groups, provides training exercises for volunteers, and interfaces with state and federal agencies.

Jim explained the cycle of emergency management as including the components of disaster, response, recovery and mitigation. Preparedness includes emergency alerts, emergency plans and emergency kits. Monroe County operates 37 sirens, with IU supplementing with 6 sirens. Sirens are tested monthly as they only sound for tornado warnings. Monroe County residents can receive emergency alerts by signing up by email, text, phone or tty/ttd. The special needs registry used by first responders is checked every six months for updates. Newly registered people can be listed by name or address.

Recent Monroe County disasters include tornado and flooding in 2011 and a plane crash in 2014.

Emergency Management assesses damages and forwards information to the Indianapolis office, provides public assistance by clearing roads and arranging for continuity of services, oversees ADA accessible shelters provided by the Red Cross, and coordinates routes, public transportation in case of evacuation.

The Citizen Corps includes the first response team, the fire corps which supports the firefighters, and the medical reserve corps which includes both medical and nonmedical components.

Jim and Lisa concluded their presentation with encouraging CCA members to check on neighbors during emergencies.

**Reports from the City:** Michael reported that all Boards, Commissions and Councils are to have by-laws. The executive committee will be responsible for drafting the by-laws of CCA.

**New Concerns:** There were no new concerns.

**Report from Chair:** There was no report from the chair.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Accessibility Committee: Vicki reported that while some businesses respond to letters from Barbara McKinney, there are those that don't; the committee is unsure of follow up tactics for those not responding. Domo's compliance resulting from a letter sent by the CCA resulted in their qualifying for a decal. As a result of David's training sessions, the Accessibility Committee has some very good new surveyors. The goal of awarding ten businesses with decals at the ADA celebration in July stands at 9 out of 10 with the possibility of 4 or 5 more businesses qualifying.

Vicki expressed a concern of knowing when it is time to file a complaint. It was agreed that when a complaint is to be filed, it should be done by someone connected to CCA or the CCA Committee. The complaint carries more weight if it filed by someone who is affected by the inaccessibility situation.

- B. Activities and Events Committee: In Susan's absence, Michael provided an update on plans for the July ADA Celebration. Members from the supporting agencies met on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and made plans for food, music, decorations, etc. Volunteers are needed to set up at 8:00 am on the morning of the event as well as during the event. A press release will go to the membership list to "save the date" as well as being published in the newspaper.

**Reports from Affiliate Organizations and Programs/Announcements:** A request was made for ideas for possible future presentations. It was suggested that the subject of Domestic Violence with references to self-advocacy and safety be addressed. Ivy Tech and IU's disability coordinators could provide information on services they provide at another CCA meeting. After August, Monroe County Public Library could provide information on library-sponsored programs.

Dr. Connelly reported that there were about 200 individuals at the Thank a Youth Worker event at Ivy Tech.

A suggestion was made to invite the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades Grandview Elementary School Choir to provide entertainment at the October Awards Ceremony.

Lifedesigns and Stone Belt are providing training for empowering direct support professionals.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Crawford

Secretary